

(ii) the date of such authorization to be the date of the original authorization; and

(5) if, by the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the termination, the Secretary has not found a qualified entity (or entities) described in paragraph (3), shall—

(A) terminate the project; and

(B) from the amount remaining in the Reserve Fund established as part of the project, remit to each source that provided funds under section 5(b)(4) to the entity originally authorized to conduct the project, an amount that bears the same ratio to the amount so remaining as the amount provided by the source under section 5(b)(4) bears to the amount provided by all such sources under that section.

#### SEC. 14. EVALUATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with an independent research organization to evaluate, individually and as a group, all qualified entities and sources participating in the demonstration projects conducted under this Act.

(b) FACTORS TO EVALUATE.—In evaluating any demonstration project conducted under this Act, the research organization shall address the following factors:

(1) The savings account characteristics (such as threshold amounts and match rates) required to stimulate participation in the demonstration project, and how such characteristics vary among different populations or communities.

(2) What service configurations of the qualified entity (such as peer support, structured planning exercises, mentoring, and case management) increase the rate and consistency of participation in the demonstration project and how such configurations vary among different populations or communities.

(3) The economic, civic, psychological, and social effects of asset accumulation, and how such effects vary among different populations or communities.

(4) The effects of individual development accounts on savings rates, homeownership, level of education attained, and self-employment, and how such effects vary among different populations or communities.

(5) The potential financial returns to the Federal Government and to other public sector and private sector investors in individual development accounts over a 5-year and 10-year period of time.

(6) The lessons to be learned from the demonstration projects conducted under this Act and if a permanent program of individual development accounts should be established.

(7) Such other factors as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

(c) METHODOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS.—In evaluating any demonstration project conducted under this Act, the research organization shall—

(1) to the extent possible, use control groups to compare participants with non-participants;

(2) before, during, and after the project, obtain such quantitative data as are necessary to evaluate the project thoroughly; and

(3) develop a qualitative assessment, derived from sources such as in-depth interviews, of how asset accumulation affects individuals and families.

(d) REPORTS BY THE SECRETARY.—

(1) INTERIM REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of the calendar year in which the Secretary first authorizes a qualified entity to conduct a demonstration project under this Act, and every 12 months thereafter until all demonstration projects conducted under this Act are completed, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an in-

terim report setting forth the results of the reports submitted pursuant to section 12(b).

(2) FINAL REPORTS.—Not later than 12 months after the conclusion of all demonstration projects conducted under this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a final report setting forth the results and findings of all reports and evaluations conducted pursuant to this Act.

(e) EVALUATION EXPENSES.—The Secretary shall expend such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

#### SEC. 15. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001, to remain available until expended.

#### SEC. 16. FUNDS IN INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNTS OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT PARTICIPANTS DISREGARDED FOR PURPOSES OF ALL MEANS-TESTED FEDERAL PROGRAMS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law that requires consideration of 1 or more financial circumstances of an individual, for the purpose of determining eligibility to receive, or the amount of, any assistance or benefit authorized by such law to be provided to or for the benefit of such individual, funds (including interest accruing) in an individual development account (as defined in section 4(4)) shall be disregarded for such purpose with respect to any period during which the individual participates in a demonstration project conducted under this Act (or would be participating in such a project but for the suspension of the project).

By Mr. COVERDELL:

S. 1107. A bill to protect consumers by eliminating the double postage rule under which the Postal Service requires competitors of the Postal Service to charge above market prices; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

#### DOUBLE POSTAGE RULE ELIMINATION ACT

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I am today introducing the Double Postage Rule Elimination Act of 1997. This legislation will protect consumers by eliminating the double postage rule under which the Postal Service requires its competitors to charge above market prices.

We have in effect today laws known as the Private Express Statutes or PES. These laws make it generally unlawful for any person other than the Postal Service to send or carry letters over postal routes for compensation, with some exceptions. Under the PES, private delivery companies must set their two-day delivery rates at twice those of the Postal Service for similarly sized items.

In addition, the PES gives the Postal Service the right to impose fines on businesses that use private delivery companies to deliver time-sensitive mail rather than using the Postal Service. Current regulations permit a business to choose a private carrier—such as UPS, Federal Express, or others—if the business feels that the message is urgent. The catch is that the Postal Service feels it alone can determine if a message is truly urgent, not the consumer.

Currently, the Postal Service charges \$3.00 per item for its Priority Mail, which is advertised as reaching the recipient in two days, though that isn't guaranteed. This means the lowest price a private competitor can offer for two-day delivery is \$6.00. If the Postal Service raised its rate by \$1.00 to \$4.00 an item, a private delivery company offering \$6.00 service would have no choice but to impose a \$2.00 increase, to \$8.00.

As you can see, the law gives the Postal Service great power to control the rates charged by its private competitors and limit competition. Combine that with the Postal Service's ability to second-guess a consumer's decision to use a private carrier and you have a very uneven playing field.

The Postal Service has displayed a willingness to use its governmental powers for competitive advantage. In 1993 it was reported that the Postal Service had audited corporations and fined them as much as \$500,000 in back postage fees for using UPS and Federal Express when the Postal Service inspectors thought those choices were not warranted.

More recently, the Postal Service spent over \$200 million on an advertising campaign for Priority Mail. The campaign was based on the Postal Service's lower price—\$3.00 for Priority Mail versus \$6.00 for UPS and \$8.00 for Federal Express. Of course, the ads left out the fact that the private companies were prohibited by law from matching the Postal Service price—or charging anything less than \$6.00 a letter.

Mr. President, the bill I am introducing today does one simple thing to level the field of competition. It replaces the double postage rule with a "two-dollar" rule. Under my bill, private companies will be able to legally charge any rate above \$2.00 for their second-day products. If they want to match the Postal Service at \$3.00, they may. The law will no longer impose an artificial "double postage" rule forcing private companies to charge above market rates.

This legislation will stop government intrusions into private consumer decisions and will increase competition in the area of delivering urgent letters. I urge support for the Double Postage Rule Elimination Act of 1997.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. D'AMATO):

S. 1108. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 290 Broadway in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### THE RONALD H. BROWN FEDERAL BUILDING DESIGNATION ACT OF 1997

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill to honor and remember a truly exceptional American, Ronald H. Brown. The bill would designate the newly constructed Federal